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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Vinayakam system is very much in observance in Tamil Nad especially, that is, worshipping Him before taking any action in any matter." (Laughter.)

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, I wish to offer a personal explanation. I have not characterized the Tottenham system as a rotten system. One Mr. Rice, I.C.S., who was the Collector of Coimbatore district, I think, has introduced a new system. He has characterized the Tottenham system as a rotten system. It is not ' Rice ' problem as the Hon. Minister funnily characterized it. It is called the ' Rice Disposal System '. The Hon. Minister can refer to the officers in the Secretariat. They will throw more light on this problem."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am very much obliged to the hon. Member. I am glad he has gone through all these reports. I have already confessed that I have not gone through the Rice Report."

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM :—" 1942-ம் வருஷத்திய இயக்கத்தைப் பற்றி அப்பொழுது இருந்த இந்திய அரசாங்கத்தின் சார்பில் ' டாடன்ஹாம் ' என்ற ஒருவர் மிகக் கேவலமாக ஒரு புத்தகம் எழுதியிருக்கிறார். அந்த ' டாடன்ஹாம் 'க்கும், இந்த ' டாடன்ஹாம் ' க்கும் ஏதாவது சம்பந்தம் உண்டா ? அல்லது ஒருவரேதானா ?"

SRI K. RAJARAM NAIDU :—" ஒருவரேதான்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" 1942-ம் வருஷ இயக்கத்தைப்பற்றி நமக்கு ஆட்சேபகரமான ஒரு புத்தகத்தை அவர் பின்னால் எழுதியிருக்கிறார் என்பதற்காக மட்டும், அவரால் அரசாங்க நிர்வாகத்தில் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட முறையை நல்லதா கெட்டதா என்று பார்க்காமலேயே கைவிடுவது அவ்வளவு உசிதமில்லை. அவர் கொடுத்திருக்கக் கூடிய முறை நல்லதா கெட்டதா என்பதை மாத்திரம் பரிசீலனை செய்து பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்று கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

Exemption of foodgrains from sales tax.

* 1473 Q.—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to exempt foodgrains from sales tax;

(b) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the Madras Provincial Foodgrains Merchants' Association in this regard;

(c) the total revenue derived by the Government in 1953–54 by way of sales tax on foodgrains; and

(d) the percentage of tax on foodgrains to the entire sales tax revenue derived in the State in 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) No.

" (*b*) A general representation from the Association regarding the revision of the present system of sales tax was received and examined. No action was considered necessary.

" (*c*) Rs. 1,03,58,912.

" (*d*) Rs. 11·36 per cent."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" As the Provincial Foodgrains Merchants' Association of Madras have an intense feeling on this subject and as they have already represented to the Government to exempt foodgrains from the levy of sales tax or at least to consider the question of levying a single point sales tax, may I request the Government to view that representation sympathetically? Since the Hon. Minister was pleased to state on the floor of this House that on foodgrains only 15 per cent of the population are paying tax, may I request him to waive this collection of tax from 15 per cent of the population? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I refer the hon. Member to my convincing answer given on the floor of this House in reply to cut motion the other day."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Is it because we are getting so much of revenue from sales tax that the Government are reluctant to exempt foodgrains from tax contrary to the provision contained in the Constitution that no tax should be levied on foodgrains? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Apart from the big slice of income that we derive, the burden of this tax falls mostly on the urban citizens and the agriculturists do not pay this tax."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the incidence of such taxation falls on the ultimate consumer whether he is an urban or rural resident? If the Government could not consider the possibility of removing the tax upon foodgrains, will they consider the feasibility of waiving the tax levied upon foodstuffs prepared in restaurants? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The whole question will be gone into when we examine the Report of the Taxation Inquiry Commission."

9 a.m. SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Is the Hon. Minister in a position to give figures relating to the tax collected on rice alone? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I am not in a position to give it to-day."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Apart from various other considerations that have now been brought to the notice of the Government, may I also remind the Hon. Minister that even

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Mahatmaji, the Father of the Nation, was against the collection of any tax on foodgrains. Is he aware of it and if so, may I ask him to respect his sentiments? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' I think the reference was only to the salt tax.''

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—'' Sir, apart from the weighty words of the Mahatmaji, the tax on food ill-accords with the Avadi decision. May I request the Hon. Minister to waive this tax on foodgrains? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' At Avadi the Congress adopted a resolution on the setting up of a Socialistic pattern of society. When we implement it, all these things will be taken into consideration.''

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—'' It is a well-known fact that 90 per cent of the population of our State are very poor and they can ill-afford to pay tax on foodgrains. Therefore, will the Government be pleased to give exemption to them? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' That is why we should all strive and endeavour to implement the resolution regarding the setting up of a Socialistic pattern of society.''

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—'' நம் ராஜ்யத்தில் பெரும்பாலான மக்கள், 100-க்கு 75 பேர்கள் அரிசி உணவு சாப்பிடுபவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று கனம் விவசாய மந்திரி ஸ்ரீ பக்தவத்சலம் அவர்கள் அடிக்கடி சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். அரிசியானது 75 சதவிகிதத்தினருக்குமேல் முக்கிய உணவுப் பொருளாக அமைந்திருப்பதன் காரணமாக அரிசிக்கு விற்பனை வரியிலிருந்து விலக்களிக்க சர்க்கார் யோசிப்பார்களா ? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' The position is this. Formerly the Government were collecting revenue by selling arrack and toddy. Now we do not do so but we are getting by way of sales tax a little less of what we were getting by way of excise revenue. I think the hon. Member would welcome the levying of tax on foodgrains rather than collecting of tax on the sale of arrack and toddy.''

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—'' May I suggest to the Government to give a re-hearing to the Madras Provincial Foodgrains Merchants' Association which represent the entire Foodgrain merchants in the State so that they may know what they have got to say on the matter? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—'' The Government are not like a court of justice to give a technical re-hearing to them.''

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—'' Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister for Finance, may I know what has happened to the fines collected from prohibition offences? ''

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is a very insignificant amount when compared to the amount derived from the excise revenue which was to the tune of about Rs. 16 crores."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question Nos. 1474 and 1475 may be taken up together."

Smallpox in Malabar.

* 1474 *Q.*—SRI K. T. SREEDHARAN (on behalf of Sri M. Narayana Kurup) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of cases of attack and death due to smallpox in the Malabar district during the last three months?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The number of cases of attacks and deaths due to smallpox in the Malabar district during the three months ending with 31st January 1955 is as follows :—

Months.	Attacks.	Deaths.
November 1954	58	11
December 1954	197	64
January 1955	125	44 ,,

* 1475 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of deaths due to smallpox in Malabar during November, December 1954 and January 1955;

(*b*) the areas in which this disease is prevalent; and

(*c*) the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of this disease? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The total number of deaths due to smallpox in Malabar during November 1954, December 1954 and January 1955 was as follows :—November 1954—11; December 1954—64; January 1955—44.

" (*b*) The areas in which this disease is prevalent are :—Kozhikode, Kurumbranad, Ernad, Palghat, Ponnani, Wynaad taluks and Tellicherry Municipality. (The disease was prevalent in Walluvanad and Chirakkal taluks in November and December 1954, respectively.)

" (*c*) Intensive vaccination and other preventive measures such as disinfection, isolation of cases and propaganda were carried out. Additional Health Assistants and Special Health Inspectors were posted for smallpox epidemic duty. Milk powder and multi-vitamin tablets and rice and medicines were distributed in some of the infected areas."